



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **KC WOMAN INDICTED FOR IDENTITY THEFT CONSPIRACY**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., woman was indicted by a federal grand jury today for participating in an identity theft scheme to purchase Wal-Mart gift cards using stolen lists of names and Social Security numbers.

**Delana K. Pickens**, 31, of Kansas City, was charged in a three-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges a conspiracy in which **Pickens** participated with others to use Social Security numbers of other persons to obtain credit and property through fraud and deceit, throughout the state of Missouri and elsewhere, from December 2001 to Nov. 5, 2002.

The federal indictment alleges that **Pickens** stole names and corresponding Social Security numbers from a database of customer financial information at Caremark, a Lee's Summit business that trains people to work as customer service representatives. **Pickens** was formerly employed as an instructor at the business during the time of the conspiracy. **Pickens** allegedly printed out lists of identity information from Caremark's database, then sold the lists to other conspirators, knowing that the conspirators would use the information to obtain instant credit accounts at Wal-Mart stores and other merchants to purchase gift cards or merchandise.

According to the indictment, **Pickens** and the other conspirators agreed that the instant credit accounts would be used in part to purchase gift cards, some of which would be returned to **Pickens** as compensation for sharing the stolen identity information from Caremark. In order to avoid detection, the conspirators allegedly agreed not to repeat a credit application under a particular name and Social Security number, and to travel throughout the state and elsewhere to open accounts at various stores.

More than 100 names and corresponding Social Security numbers from the stolen lists were used by conspirators, the indictment alleges, primarily at Wal-Mart but also at Target, Sears and Best Buy stores.

Counts Two and Three of the federal indictment allege separate instances in which **Pickens** illegally transferred the names and Social Security numbers belonging to other persons, with the intent to commit, or to aid or abet, the illegal unauthorized use of an access device.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John E. Cowles. It was investigated by the Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
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